

GMG adds aircraft to fleet

STAR BUSINESS DESK

GMG Airlines yesterday added an MD-83 aircraft to its fleet.

Shahab Sattar, managing director of GMG, said the MD-83 aircraft with 150 passenger seating capacity and powerful engines, would help open new routes for the private airline.

The destinations include Singapore, Bangkok, Karachi and Dubai.

The latest aircraft takes the number of GMG's planes to six.

"GMG now looks forward to steady expansion of routes and growth in passengers," Sattar added.

SA Chowdhury, chief executive officer and managing director of Sonali Bank, inaugurated the function in the presence of the airline's senior officials at the VIP lounge of the domestic wing of Zia International Airport.



Hathay Bunano founder honoured

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Samantha Morshed, founder of Hathay Bunano p.s. (HBPS), has been awarded a Member of the Order of the British Empire for her services to the rural poor and disadvantaged women in Bangladesh.

The award conferred by the British monarch recognises "remarkable services to the community".

The name of Morshed appeared in the 2009 New Year's Honours List published in The London Gazette on December 31, HBPS said in a press statement yesterday.

Morshed established HBPS in 2005 in Bangladesh to create jobs for the poor rural women with fair pay and a decent work environment. The company produces a range of hand-knitted children and baby products, including toys and wares.

"Coming here five years ago, I felt that I had skills and abilities that could be put to good use to make the lives of some Bangladeshis a little better," she said.

HBPS started off by training a small group of women in hand-knitting in a venture that grew to over 3,500 artisans in 32 rural production centres across Bangladesh.

The products are exported mainly to the US, UK, Australia, Scandinavian countries, Middle East and Europe.

Samantha Morshed is a British woman married to Golam Morshed, chairman of HBPS.

Commodities mostly slide in 2008

AFP, London

Commodities rode a rocky ride in 2008, with crude oil, gold and base metals hitting historic peaks on supply woes, before tumbling as a global financial crisis sparked demand worries.

"Commodity markets have had to cope with a complete reshaping of the economic landscape, and in a very short space of time have priced in expectations of a recession in both the global economy and demand," Barclays Capital analysts wrote in a research note.

They added: "Although the pace of decline in commodity prices has slowed in December, there is still potential downside risk to prices should financial markets remain unstable... and global growth projections be cut further."

After a hectic 2008, most commodity markets began winding down for the Christmas and New Year holidays on Friday, December 19, 2008. Normal trading volumes were expected to resume on Monday, January 5, 2009.

OIL: World oil prices fell by about 54 percent in 2008 as a sharp global economic slowdown weighed on energy demand in the second half of the year.

However, in the first half, crude futures rocketed to record highs of above 147 a barrel in July on fears of supply disruptions.

Towards the end of 2008, prices slumped to just above 33 dollars -- the lowest in four and a half years.

Prices rallied this week as the Israeli-Hamas conflict in Gaza stoked tensions in the key oil-producing Middle East.

Analysts said the market had also been supported by evidence that the OPEC oil producers' cartel was cutting output in line with an announcement earlier this month. Previous OPEC cuts have often been met with partial compliance.

Crude oil began 2008 by vaulting above 100 dollars for the first time as traders worried about violence in oil exporter Nigeria and supply problems in the key US energy market.

Continued geopolitical tensions then saw oil rocket above 120, 130 and 140 dollars on their way to setting all-time highs by mid-year.

By Friday on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), light sweet crude for delivery in February

jumped to 46.05 dollars, which compared to 36.91 dollars per barrel on December 19.

On London's InterContinental Exchange (ICE), Brent North Sea crude for February increased to 46.89 dollars, from 44.67.

PRECIOUS METALS: Gold and silver edged higher in 2008, while palladium and platinum lost between 40-50 percent of their value, pulled lower by recession concerns.

Gold had soared to a historic peak of 1,032.70 dollars on March 17, 2008, as investors sought a safe haven against a backdrop of tumbling world stock markets, a falling dollar and record oil prices, dealers said.

"Gold remains the big winner of 2008," said analyst Simon Denham at Capital Spreads in London.

"For all of the headlines gold is not a huge market and any move away by major (investors) may develop into a heavy fall," he cautioned.

Meanwhile, silver hit a 27-year pinnacle at 21.35 dollars per ounce last March.

Gold, which is used in jewellery, dentistry and electronics, also benefited from its status as a safe bet in times of economic and geopolitical turmoil.

Stocks around the world were rocked in 2008 by the global financial crisis and international credit crunch.

Over the past week, precious metals rose amid ongoing unrest in the Middle East.

On the London Bullion Market on Friday, gold increased to 874.50 dollars an ounce at the late fixing from 835.75 dollars a week earlier.

Silver increased to 11.08 dollars an ounce from 10.61 dollars.

On the London Platinum and Palladium Market, platinum gained to 926 dollars an ounce at the late fixing on Friday from 848 dollars on December 19.

Palladium climbed to 185 dollars an ounce from 172 dollars.

BASE METALS: Base metals prices rebounded this week after traumatic losses last year.

In 2008, aluminium shed 36 percent and copper eroded 54 percent. Nickel and zinc sank by 55 percent and 49 percent respectively, while tin declined by 35 percent. The worst performer was lead, which lost 61 percent in value.

However, during the first half of 2008, aluminium, copper and tin scored historic highs on the back of supply concerns in key producer nations.

But prices then plunged as base metals were rocked by the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, with Europe, Japan and the United States sliding into a painful recession.

Most base metals were also hampered by rising inventories, high production levels and a massive withdrawal of speculative investors from commodities.

Copper, which had struck an all-time high of 8,675 dollars per tonne on July 2, 2008, plummeted to 2,817 dollars on December 24 -- which was last seen in October 2004. Zinc also hit a four-year trough in November.

Aluminium, which set a record high 3,380 dollars per tonne on July 11, dived to a five-year low of 1,430.50 dollars per tonne on December 18.

Tin was another casualty, sliding in December to 9,700 dollars per tonne, which was last seen in November 2006.

The metal had touched a historic high of 25,500 dollars in May 2008, supported by dwindling global supplies and production problems in Indonesia.

Lead, meanwhile, sank in December to 851 dollars per tonne, matching a level last seen in September 2005.

By Friday, copper for delivery in three months jumped to 3,169 dollars a tonne on the London Metal Exchange from 2,870.25 on December 19.

Three-month aluminium rallied to 1,535 dollars a tonne from 1,490 dollars.

GRAINS AND SOYA: Grains and soya prices held steady but remained far below record highs touched last year.

"2008 has been a year of chequered fortunes for the grains markets, with corn, wheat and soybean all hitting fresh all-time highs before dropping 50-65 percent from their peaks," said Barclays Capital analysts.

In February 2008, wheat had rocketed to an historic peak of 13,495 dollars per bushel in Chicago thanks to tumbling inventories and keen global demand, traders said.

And in July, soya struck a record pinnacle of 16.52 dollars and maize (corn) leapt to an all-time high at 7.6775 dollars per bushel.



SA Chowdhury, managing director of Sonali Bank, inaugurates the ceremony of launching an aircraft for GMG Airlines in Dhaka yesterday.

London investors look to extend stock market rally

AFP, London

The London stock market will look to extend its recent rally next week, when the Bank of England is expected to again slash interest rates as Britain stands on the brink of recession.

The FTSE 100 index of leading shares closed Friday at 4,561.79 points, up 345.2 points or 8.19 percent from December 24 when the market closed for Christmas.

London's main index reopened this week on Monday, before shutting Thursday for New Year's Day.

Despite a strong start to 2009, the FTSE last year suffered its worst annual performance in its 24-year

history, losing 31 percent of its value.

Stocks around the world were rocked in 2008 by the international credit crunch, banking crisis and house market slump.

London's dire performance surpassed 2002's 25-percent decline amid the dotcom crash.

Last year's fall was the London stock market's second biggest ever annual slide, overshadowed only by the 55-percent fall for the FTSE All-Share index in 1974.

Stricken British banks HBOS and Royal Bank of Scotland were among the worst performers in 2008.

The two groups were forced to call on the taxpayer

for a multi-billion pound rescue bailout after suffering in the aftermath of the credit crunch -- a crisis that slashed the value of HBOS shares by 90 percent and by more than 80 percent for RBS.

In a bid to spur Britain's struggling economy, the Bank of England has been slashing interest rates in recent months. On Thursday the BoE meets for its regular policy meeting and is widely expected to again take the knife to borrowing costs.

Some analysts are predicting a cut of 100 basis points or more for a third month running. British interest rates currently stand at 2.00 percent -- the lowest level since 1951.

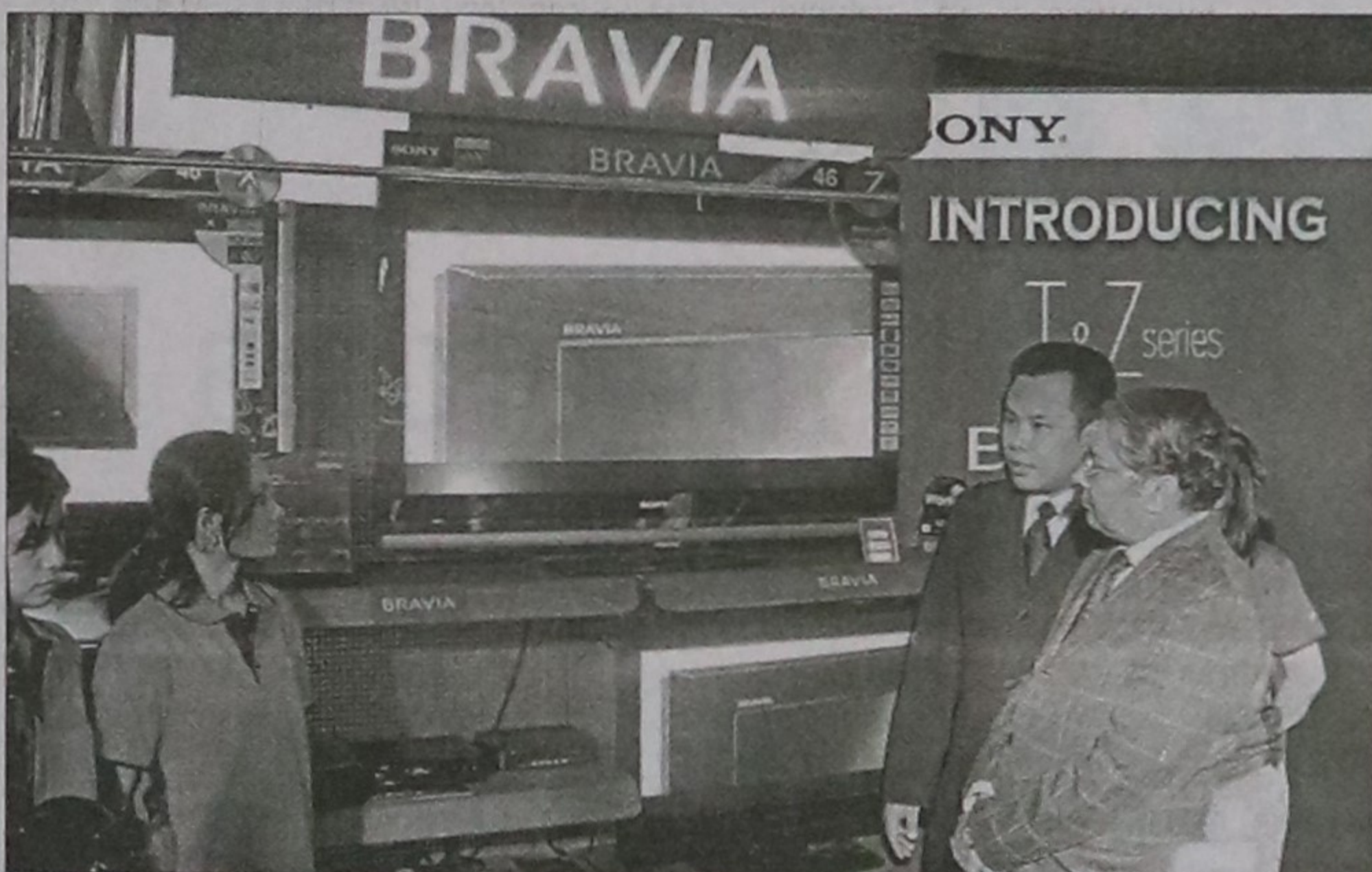
Benapole port, customs open on holiday

UNB, Benapole

Benapole land port and customs were open yesterday, a weekly holiday, when 250 trucks-load goods and commodities imported from India and 70 trucks-load exported.

Customs officials said they were directed to operate on the holiday to make up the losses caused by disruption during the polls.

Apart from machinery, spares and variety of commodities and a large quantity of garment raw materials came from India.



Aktar Hussain, managing director of Rangs Group of Companies, and Spencer Low Chee Kin, delegate from Sony Singapore Marketing Company, jointly inaugurate the T and Z series BRAVIA LCD televisions at Sony-Rangs Pavilion at the 14th Dhaka International Trade Fair on Friday.

Swedish firms planning large layoffs in 2009

AFP, Stockholm

After shedding tens of thousands of jobs in recent months, Sweden should prepare for a new wave of layoffs in 2009, a survey of some of the country's top business leaders showed Saturday.

In a telephone survey conducted by the Regi polling agency last month of the chief executives of 100 companies listed on the Stockholm stock exchange, 39 percent said their staffing needs would decline in 2009, the Dagens Industri business daily reported.

China's oil experts start work on Iraqi field

AFP, Kut

Chinese oil engineers have begun work on developing a major Iraqi oil field following the signing of a three billion dollar contract, a senior Iraqi official said on Saturday.

The project, the first major oil development deal secured by a foreign firm in Iraq since the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003, revives a contract signed in 1997 that granted China exploration rights to the Al-Ahdab oil field.

"The company is there at the site and has already taken the first steps," said Wasit governor Latiff Hamed al-Tarfa, referring to the engineers from the China National Petroleum Corp (CNPC).

Al-Ahdab's oil production is expected to reach 25,000 barrels per day in the first three years and expand to 115,000 barrels per day in six years, according to CNPC.

The contract, signed in November in Baghdad,

allows CNPC and another Chinese company, Zhenhua Oil, to develop the Al-Ahdab oil field in the province of Wasit in central Iraq for 23 years.

Smaller energy deals have been signed in Iraq's northern Kurd region, which has an autonomous government.

"In the last two days, Iraq's minister of oil received the delegation from the Chinese company and discussed the start of the work," Tarfa told AFP.

After China won the rights in the 1997 deal, then valued at 700 million dollars over 23 years, activities were suspended due to United Nations sanctions and then by security issues following the US-led invasion in 2003.

Output from the field will mostly be exported but some will be used to fuel power generation stations nearby to ease electricity shortages in Iraq.

Baghdad said earlier it had managed to change the previous joint venture contract into a service agree-

ment, under which CNPC would charge a service fee of six dollars a barrel, decreasing eventually to three dollars.

The Al-Ahdab oil contract, while now strictly a service deal, will be worth an estimated three billion dollars to the Chinese and offers them an entry into Iraq's oil reserves ahead of Western majors.

Dollar climbs against euro

AFP, New York

The dollar climbed against the euro Friday after a widely watched survey showed eurozone manufacturing activity plunging to a record low in December.

The euro fetched 1.3910 dollars in New York late Friday compared with 1.3969 on Wednesday. The market was closed on Thursday for the New Year.

The dollar also rose to 91.79 yen from 90.63 late Wednesday.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Directorate General of Health Services
EPI and Surveillance, EPI HQ, Mohakhali, Dhaka

Invitation for Re-Tender

Memo No. DGHS/EPI/ADMIN-161/2008/2902
Sealed tender is hereby invited from the genuine press/printers for printing EPI materials.
As per PPR-2008 terms and conditions are as follows:

Dated: 31/12/2008

KEY INFORMATION						
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare				
2	Agency	Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).				
3	Procuring entity name	Director, PHC & Line Director, ESD, DGHS, EPI HQ, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.				
4	Procuring entity code	8000.				
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.				
6	Invitation for	Printing of EPI materials.				
7	Tender Ref. No.	DGHS/EPI/ADMIN-161/2008/				
8	Date	31/12/2008.				
9	Procurement method	Open tender method (OTM).				
FUNDING INFORMATION						
10	Budget and source of funds	GoB (Dev.)				
11	Developments partners	Not applicable.				
PARTICULAR INFORMATION						
12	Project/program code	8003.				
13	Project/program name	Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI).				
14	Tender package No.	GoB-Printing PKG-02.				
15	Tender package name	GoB-Printing.				
16	Tender publication date	04/01/2009.				
17	Tender last selling date	08/02/2009.				
18	Tender closing date and time	10/02/2009 at 11:30am.				
19	Tender opening date and time	10/02/2009 at 02:30pm.				
20	Name and address of offices:					
	a) Selling tender documents	a) Programme Manager, Child Health & LCC, EPI HQ, Mohakhali, Dhaka. b) Divisional Commissioner Office, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.				
	b) Receiving tenders documents	a) Programme Manager, Child Health & LCC, EPI HQ, Mohakhali, Dhaka. b) Divisional Commissioner Office, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.				
	c) Opening tender documents	Assistant Director, EPI & Surveillance, EPI HQ, DGHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka (Room No. 408, 3 rd floor). In presence of tenderer if any.				
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	Place: Conference Room (2 nd floor), EPI HQ, Mohakhali, Dhaka. Date: 22/01/2009; Time: At 11.00am.				
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER						
22	Eligibility of tenderer	All tenderers regardless of whether entitled or not entitled with the employer & as per qualification mentioned in the tender documents.				
23	Brief description of goods	Printing of EPI materials.				
24	Brief description of related services	Not applicable.				
24	Lot No	Identification of lot	Location	Price of tender document in Taka	Tender security amount in Taka	Time for completion in weeks
	01	Printing of TT (Women) Card with Plastic Jacket	EPI HQ	Lot No. 01 Tk 2,500/- (two thousand five hundred) only	Lot No. 01 Tk 3,50,000/- (three lac fifty thousand) only	12 weeks from signing of contract
	04	- EPI Child Monthly Report Book - Monthly EPI Report Book for Women. - District Indent Book - Upazila Indent Book - Logistic Distribution Register - Daily Vaccine Distribution Register - District & Upazila Stock Register	EPI HQ	Lot No. 04 Tk 1,500/- (one thousand five hundred) only	Lot No. 04 Tk 1,10,000/- (one lac ten thousand) only	
N.B.:	For lot 01 & 04	One bidder can submit tender for one lot only	By Treasury Chalan with CTR Code No-1-2711-0000-2366 in Sonali Bank or Bangladesh Bank (non-refundable)	Bank Draft or Bank Guarantee or Pay Order in favour of Line Director, ESD, DGHS		
25	Name of official inviting tender	Dr. Kazi Shahadat Hossain.				
26	Designation of official inviting tenders	Director, PHC & Line Director, ESD.				
27	Address of official inviting tender	Room No-405 (3 rd floor), EPI HQ, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.				
28	Contact details of official inviting tenders	EPI HQ, DGHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka. Phone No. 8811741. Fax No. 8821914 (EPI).				
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.						
Dr Kazi Shahadat Hossain Director, PHC & Line Director, ESD						

C-29

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Gulshan	1665 sq ft
Gulshan	1550 sq ft
Gulshan	1490 sq ft
Gulshan	1480 sq ft
Gulshan	1453 sq ft
Gulshan	1450 sq ft
Gulshan	1300 sq ft
Banani	2294 sq ft
Banani	2250 sq ft
Banani	2100 sq ft
Banani	1980 sq ft
Banani	1461 sq ft
Banani	960 sq ft
Baridhara	1304 sq ft
Kalabagan	1350 sq ft
Shanti Nagar	1699 sq ft
Malibog	1150 sq ft
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Mirpur	1473 sq ft
Mirpur	1080 sq ft
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Mirpur	805 sq ft
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